

**From:** ROBERT CHATHAM [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** Lindsay Lara <[Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org)>; [city.clerk@cityofsanfael.org](mailto:city.clerk@cityofsanfael.org)  
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**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS

RE: Council Meeting on February 1, 2021

We support the passing of the "Amendment of the Current Vegetation Management Ordinance" and "Regulation of On-Street Parking on Narrow Streets, Hilly Streets" Ordinance. Wildfires and poorly maintained landscaping are a significant risk to our community. SAFETY FIRST!

Thank you.  
Robert & Karen Chatham  
[REDACTED]  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Lindsay Lara <[Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto:Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org)>  
**Subject:** re: for the CC meeting 2/1

Mayor Colin, Members of the San Rafael City Council

Re: Agenda Items 7 a. and 7 b. before the Council on February 1, 2021

I write to express my support for the passage of both the (7 a.) Amendment of the Current Vegetation management Ordinance and (7 b.) Regulation of On-Street Parking on Narrow Streets ordinances.

As a citizen of San Rafael for more than 30 years and a former responder to fire incidents with the San Rafael Fire Department I probably have more than an average amount of experience with the difficulties of responding to emergencies on the narrow and windy streets in the hills of San Rafael. Many of these were developed a century or more ago to service what amounted to small vacation cottages belonging to families from San Francisco and other Bay Area cities. In the intervening decades many of the original cottages evolved into larger full time homes and other homes were built in the intervening spaces. In the early days little thought was given to the need for emergency access and when it was the access was considered adequate. But, with more homes developed closer to streets, larger and more personal vehicles and larger fire and ambulance apparatus access has become a bigger problem for firefighters, paramedics and police. I remember responding to a fire in the middle of a rainy night high in the hills which required firefighters to pull nearly 1000 feet of hose up the hill by hand because that was as close as they were able to get with an engine. Many situations like this are avoidable and the ordinance before you presents reasonable and prudent mitigation.

Through my experience responding with the San Rafael Fire Department to wildland fires in San Rafael as well as regular participation in out of county wildland fire training I probably have more than the average citizen's experience with wildland fire while nowhere near the experience of wildland firefighters or the victims of a wildfire. However, with even my limited first hand experience I'm very aware of the devastation that any fire can cause and particularly when it wipes out a whole neighborhood. Fire is a part of the natural environment and should be accepted as just that. However, that does not mean ignoring the impact on human habitation. Reasonable and responsible policies are the proper means of mitigating the danger to developed area and this ordinance a well-reasoned response.

Both of these proposed ordinances have the product of careful consideration by professionals who conducted extensive public outreach and involved the San Rafael community in the drafting process. I was a member of the Wildfire Advisory Committee that discussed and debated the issues and ideas that went into the creation of the ordinances before you tonight. The members of that committee were a diverse cross section of San Rafael. This was an active committee. There was no rubber stamping proposals from the administration. What you have before you has been well tested and well thought out. That's not to say it will meet with universal acceptance. There will always be those who feel their ox was gored. But, these serve the best interest of the community, they do the greatest good for the greatest number. Often, it is those most opposed who are the most grateful when way later they are the ones who have faced a personal disaster that was mitigated by the action taken.

This is important work and I urge you to pass these ordinances.

Larry Luckham